

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A signal representative of a key is generated from authenticator-value information and key base information. The authenticator-value information represents a specified authenticator value. The key base information contains identification information which is set to reproduce the specified authenticator value according to a predetermined degeneration function. Contents information is encrypted into encryption-resultant contents information in response to the key signal. The key base information and the encryption-resultant contents information are transmitted or recorded.

09726434-120100